

must rely only on themselves and the legislature for redress under the numerous evils arising from the present anomalous and unjust laws. As for the poor! may God help them. If the Malthusian doctrine be good, commend them to the tender mercies of enlightened commissioners, who confide them to the care of "American" practitioners, *sans* "catheter," *sans* "horse," *sans* everything.

With regard to remuneration, I think the following mode would be advantageous. In cases beyond a certain distance (a mile?) a *mileage* should be charged. For the case itself, whether in town or country, a charge should be made in the ratio of its duration,—a certain sum per day, gradually diminishing after the first three days. Thus for a continued chronic case there would be a smaller *rate* of pay, and in an acute case of shorter duration, when more time and trouble are bestowed, the rate of remuneration would be somewhat greater.

Under such arrangements the poor might apply to whom they pleased, each practitioner at certain periods giving in (as directed under the new Act) the names of those patients who have been under his care, with an account of the nature and duration of their disorders. I am, Sir, yours obediently,

A COUNTRY PRACTITIONER.  
Cirencester, Feb. 9, 1836.

#### POOR-LAW AMENDMENT ACT.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—The following statement will prove the hardship of my case under the Poor-law Amendment Act. Three years ago I engaged in a practice of sixty years' standing, which comprised the medical attendance on five parishes in my immediate neighbourhood, but which five parishes will not give me sufficient interest to obtain the attendance on the poor in the district, in consequence of the sudden introduction of strange medical men by the Poor-law Commissioners. I shall not be able to retain even the one parish in which I reside. The consequence will be, the entire destruction of my practice, the committal of a dead robbery on my property, with the prospect of starvation to the sufferer. The Guardians, after allowing a certain sum for a certain number of attendants, should, at least, divide that sum amongst the established medical men, allowing them to remain undisturbed. I transmit you my name and address privately, and am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A SUFFOLK PRACTITIONER.

#### MEDICAL CORONERS.

*To the Editor.*—SIR, As you desire to be informed of the medical coroners residing in the vicinity of the numerous readers of THE LANCET, I beg leave to state that the coroner for the county of Merioneth, is EDWARD WILLIAMS, Esq., of Bala, surgeon. In the next county to this, the county of Denbigh, there is also a medical coroner, R. NICHOLS, Esq., surgeon, of Ruthin. Thus it would seem that we are wiser in Wales than they are in England,—two at least of its counties having chosen their coroner from among the members of the medical profession. I am, Sir, your obedient humble servant,

JOHN WILLIAMS.

Corwen, Feb. 8, 1836.

MR. SMITH'S INDENTURES.—*To the Editor.*—Sir,—In answer to an inquiry made in the last number of your journal, by the author of the letter signed "INVESTIGATOR," I hasten to furnish him with a statement of the simple facts. About half an hour before my examination terminated, the Clerk of the Court gave me my indenture of apprenticeship, which I placed by my side, when the examiner who was sitting opposite to me, whose name I have not the pleasure of knowing, took it up and looked at it. The rest of the proceeding has already been made known. Now if this mode of proceeding be irregular, which the author of the letter in question considers it to be, I am only performing a proper duty in stating the facts, in order that a similar proceeding may be prevented in future. You will oblige me by inserting this note in the pages of your very excellent journal. I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS SMITH.

1, Jewin-crescent.

*To the Editor.*—SIR, I beg to state, through the medium of your journal, that I have no knowledge or concern with certain individuals who have taken the liberty to affix my name to a preparation of *Sarsaparilla*, by printing it on the stamp,—as declared, at least, in certain advertisements. Nor have I, as I find it is asserted, anything to do with sarsaparilla, or any medicinal preparation whatsoever. Permit me also to state that legal measures will immediately be commenced in order to obtain redress for this most unjustifiable freedom, or forgery, as perhaps it might be designated. I am, Sir, most respectfully, your most obedient servant,

JOHN HANCOCK.

Commercial-road, Feb. 1836.